

Application No. 09/586,722
Attorney Docket Number 2101197-991110

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the assumed variables in said data structure being arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy;

determining, by use of the computer system, a first outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon the assumed variables;

authorizing a user to alter one or more of the assumed variables ~~according to~~ based on a level of authorization of the user and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization have access to different levels of assumed variables; and

determining a second outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise taking into account the altered assumed variables.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first outcome includes a present financial value of the value stream.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first outcome includes a non-financial metric.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

authorizing each of a plurality of users to alter the assumed variables ~~according to~~ based on the level of authorization of each of the users and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization have access to different levels of assumed variables;

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storing, for each altered assumed variable, an identification of the user who made the alteration; and

determining alternate outcomes for the value stream of the business enterprise taking into account selected aggregations of the altered assumed variables wherein the selected aggregations are formed according to the stored identifications.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including a plurality of assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy, the data structure having a portion which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;

determining, by use of a computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon the assumed variables of the base case scenario;

authorizing a plurality of users to alter one or more of the assumed variables based on a level of authorization of each user and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization have access to different levels of assumed variables;

~~altering, by a plurality of users, selected ones of the plurality of assumed variables;~~
storing each altered assumed variable in the data structure in association with an identifier of the user who made the alteration, and maintaining the assumed variables of the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of users;

aggregating selected ones of the altered assumed variables and selected ones of the assumed variables of the base case scenario in accordance with the stored identifiers to form one or more alternate scenarios; and

determining, by use of the computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon each of the alternate scenarios.

Claim 6 (canceled):

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Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a present financial value of the value stream.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a non-financial metric.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

- developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including a plurality of assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the data structure having a portion which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;
- determining, by use of a computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon the assumed variables of the base case scenario;
- selectively authorizing a plurality of users to provide real-time feedback on the value creation performance of the business enterprise based on a level of authorization of each user, wherein only certain levels of authorization are permitted to provide real-time feedback;
- ~~providing real-time feedback, by each of a plurality of users, on the value creation performance of the business enterprise;~~
- storing the real-time feedback in the data structure in association with an identifier of the user who provided each portion of the feedback, and maintaining the assumed variables of the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of users;
- aggregating selected ones of the portions of the feedback and selected ones of the assumed variables of the base case scenario; and
- determining, by use of the computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon the selected ones of the portions of the feedback and the selected ones of the assumed variables of the base case scenario.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables

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positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy; and

wherein the a plurality of users is authorized to alter one or more of the assumed variables based on a level of authorization of each user and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization provide access to different levels of assumed variables.

Claim 12 (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a present financial value of the value stream.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a non-financial metric.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A system for processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

a memory device for storing a data structure including assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise, the assumed variables in said data structure being arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy;

means for authorizing a user to alter one or more of the assumed variables ~~according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned~~ based on a level of authorization of the user and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization have access to different levels of assumed variables;

a filter for selecting certain ones of the assumed variables and for selecting certain ones of the altered assumed variables; and

a calculation engine for receiving the certain ones of the assumed variables and the certain ones of the altered assumed variables from the filter and for determining an outcome for the financial value stream of the business enterprise based upon the certain ones of the assumed variables and the certain ones of the altered assumed variables.

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Claim 15 (original): The system according to claim 14, wherein the outcome includes a present financial value of the value stream.

Claim 16 (original): The system according to claim 14, wherein the outcome includes a non-financial metric.

Claim 17 (original): The system according to claim 14, further comprising:
means for authorizing each of a plurality of users to alter the assumed variables according to a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein for each altered assumed variable, an identification of the user who made the alteration is stored in the data structure; and
means for determining alternate outcomes for the value stream of the business enterprise taking into account selected aggregations of the altered assumed variables wherein the selected aggregations are formed according to the stored identifications.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:
developing, by use of a computer system, a data structure including a plurality of assumed variables that have an influence on a value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event for each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable, wherein the assumed variables are arranged in a multi-level hierarchy in which assumed variables positioned at a lower level in the hierarchy influence one or more assumed variables positioned at a higher level in the hierarchy, the data structure having a portion which defines a base case scenario for the business enterprise;
determining, by use of the computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon the assumed variables and events of the base case scenario;
authorizing a plurality of users to alter selected ones of the events and selected ones of the assumed variables based on a level of authorization of each user and a level of the hierarchy in which the assumed variables are positioned, wherein different levels of authorization provide access to different levels of assumed variables;

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~~altering, by a plurality of users, selected ones of the plurality of assumed variables and selected ones of the events;~~

storing each altered assumed variable and each altered event in the data structure in association with an identifier of the user who made the alteration, and maintaining the assumed variables and events of the base case scenario unchanged by the plurality of users;

aggregating selected ones of the altered assumed variables and events along with selected ones of the assumed variables and events of the base case scenario in accordance with the stored identifiers to form one or more alternate scenarios; and

determining, by use of the computer system, an outcome for the value stream of the business enterprise based upon each of the alternate scenarios.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original): The method according to claim 18, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a present financial value of the value stream.

Claim 22 (original): The method according to claim 18, wherein the outcome of the base case scenario includes a non-financial metric.